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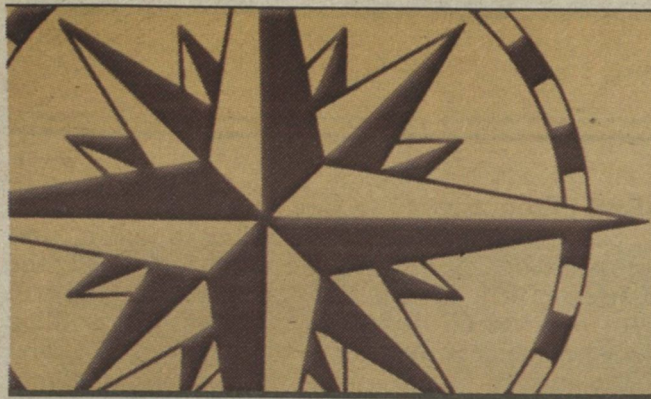
4-20-2006

The Inkwell

Armstrong Atlantic State University

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The Inkwell

The Award Winning Voice of Armstrong Atlantic State University

Week of April 20, 2006 Volume 74 Issue 13

Immigration Reform in the Hot Seat



EMILIE TUMINELLA | The Inkwell

Marcel Rivera a Louisiana native who moved to Savannah after Katrina currently works at the Community Health center in Savannah.

Emilie Tuminella
A&E Editor

Congress returns from vacation on Apr. 24 to deliberate the fate of 11 million illegal immigrants nationwide. Rallies all over the country, from Georgia to California, show the dedication of individuals who are speaking out for fair reforms.

As it stands now, there are three different laws congress is considering.

Those who have more than five years in the U.S. could apply for legal residency without having to leave the country.

Those here two to five years, would have to leave, but could immediately return as temporary workers, and anyone here less than two years would have to leave and wait in line for a visa.

In applying for a visa it takes up to six months for approval, with preference given to immediate relatives and spouses of U.S. citizens.

Currently, it takes legal immigrants on average six to nine months to become naturalized. However, this process is only the first step to becoming an American citizen. The person applying must reside in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident for at least five years.

After the individual has paid the number of fees, been interviewed, taken an English/civic test, and has no criminal background the documents will then be filed through the USCIS, and if accepted that person will take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States and becomes a citizen.

In addition to the lengthy application process, there is still the overriding concern of securing the borders.

Republicans in the House of Representatives don't appear to be wavering from their bill which is focused on tightening the U.S.-Mexican border with 700 miles of fencing and redefining the illegal immigrants already in the country as felons.

President George W. Bush proposes a new temporary worker program, in that it will match willing foreign workers with willing American employers, when no Americans can be found to fill the job. All participants must have a job or job offer; the program will last three years and will be renewable.

No workers can be hired if their legal status has expired. Undocumented workers will be required to pay a one-time fee as opposed to those who have complied with the current immigration laws. All participants will be issued a temporary worker card that will allow travel back and forth between their home and the U.S. without fear of being denied re-entry.

"I oppose amnesty, placing undocumented workers on the automatic path to citizenship. Granting amnesty encourages the violation of our laws, and perpetrates illegal immigration. America is a welcoming country, but citizenship must not be the automatic reward for violating the laws of America", said Bush.

With such a national buzz about immigration, many

REFORM | page 3

How to Learn the Keys to a Successful Business

Kasey Ray
Staff Writer

So, you think that the key to having a successful business is having a great product? According to Ada-Marie Aman,

associate lawyer at Hunter Maclean, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Aman, along with her associate Thomas Cullen, came to speak to the Armstrong Atlan-

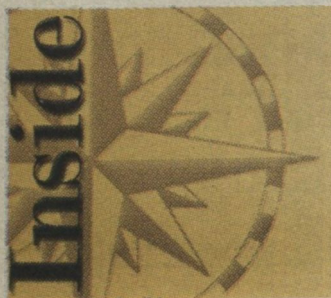
tic State University's chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) about the "Keys to Starting a Business." Aman and Cullen, both corporate lawyers, stressed the need

for liability protection and funding.

"The best way to protect your personal assets when starting a business is forming an entity," said Aman. "If you were ever

sued, the plaintiff would sue the entity, not you as an individual, so your personal assets would

BUSINESS | page 2



The Fight Against Cancer Continues

Page 4

News 1-4

AASU Captures PBC Title

Page 5

Sports 5-6

Entertainment for the Impoverished

Page 7

A&E 7-9

How Did This Get on My Finger

Page 10

Editorials 10-11

Armstrong Atlantic 2006 calendar

Thursday, April 20

- 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. Political Science Degree Candidates in UH 156
- 4:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Chemistry & Physics Banquet in University Dining Room
- 6:15p.m.-10:00p.m. CE Real Estate Class in UH 157
- 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. AAYO Spring Concert in Fine Arts Auditorium
- 6:30p.m.-9:30p.m. Lip Sync in Cafeteria
- 7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Sci Fi/ Fantasy Club in Gamble 101
- 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m. The Importance of Being Earnest in Jenkins Theatre

Friday, April 21

- 11:30p.m.-1:00p.m. Pace-the-Nation in Shearhouse Plaza
- 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. Student Lecture Series in Solms 101
- 2:30p.m.-4:00p.m. Chris Gates Graduation Recital
- 6:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Love Trap independent Film Screening in UH 158
- 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m. The Importance of Being Earnest in Jenkins Theatre

Saturday, April 22

- 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Baseball at Augusta State
- 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m. The Importance of Being Earnest in Jenkins Theatre

Sunday, April 23

- 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m. The Importance of Being Earnest in Jenkins Theatre
- 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m. SAV Jazz Orchestra Duke Ellington Birthday Concert in Fine Arts Auditorium

Monday, April 24

- 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m. Wesley Fellowship Luncheon in UH 157
- 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m. Student Government Association Meeting in UH 158
- 7:30p.m.-9:30p.m. Rho Tau Meeting in SC 1402

Tuesday, April 25

- 5:00p.m.-8:00p.m. Baseball at Valdosta State
- 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m. AAYO Spring Concert in Fine Arts Auditorium
- 7:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Sci Fi Fantasy Role Playing and Meeting

BUSINESS | From page 1

not be compromised."

Aman stressed five other reasons to form an entity when starting a business. As an entity, the business would receive a different tax treatment, whether it is beneficial or detrimental. Forming an entity provides a framework for individual partners, which provides rules and predictability for conflict resolution. It also provides common ownership of your product, if you have one. Forming an entity makes for an equal risk of loss or equal gain and makes funding less complicated.

Aman also mentioned other tasks when starting a business. You must have an accountant and an attorney; however, negotiating their fees is perfectly acceptable. You also must draft a shareholders agreement between all owners/business partners that makes provisions for events such as death, bankruptcy, opting out of the business, etc.

Another important document to draft is your business plan. This document allows you to write down what market you plan on targeting, what your goals are, what you will define as success and where you want the company to be in the future. A business consultant can help you with drafting a business plan, but their help is not nec-

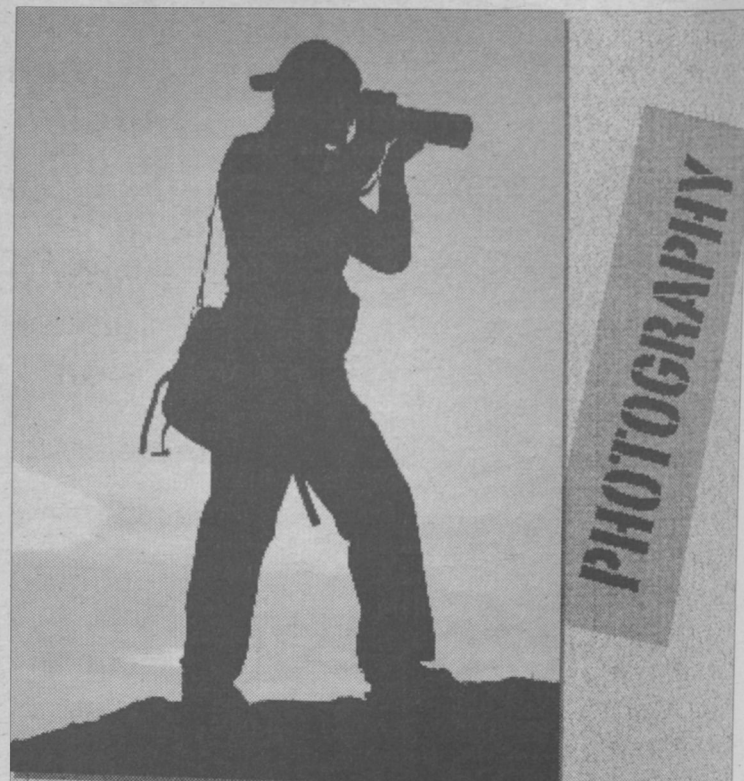
essary.

According to Cullen, your business plan is typically the first document that you will need to present when asking for funding. There are several places that you can go for funding, such as family, friends, the bank, venture groups, angel groups or even private investors.

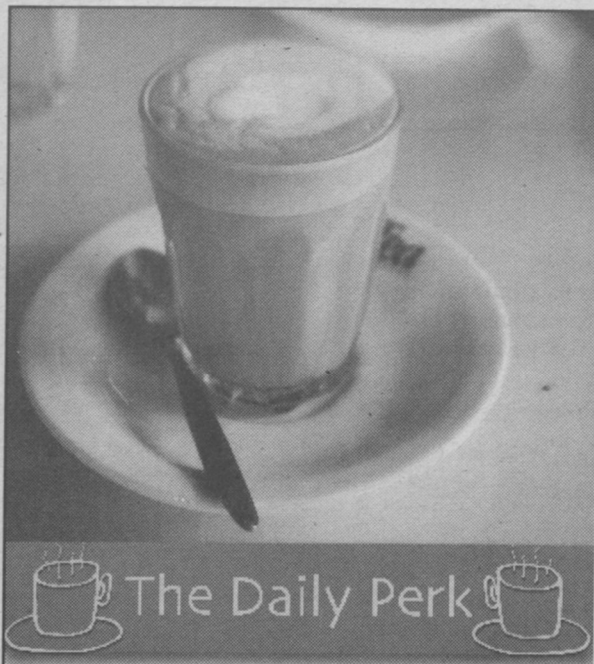
Cullen said that venture groups are good if you do not have any collateral for your start-up business, but they expect "high, quick, and safe returns on their money." This means that the venture group that loaned your company money will expect high control in the company, interest, sometimes collateral and no less than a ten-year buyout plan.

According to Cullen, bank funding can be easier and harder than venture group funding. Even though the bank will not want as much control in your business, your funding depends on your credit and collateral. This process puts your personal assets at risk, but the bank will have no say in your business.

As the presentation ended, Aman said, "The most important piece of advice for starting your own business is to choose your partners wisely. Business is like a marriage; it is hard to get a partner out if a conflict arises, and splitting your assets will feel like a divorce."



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EMILIE TUMINELLA | The Inkwell

Rev. Theo Trujillo of St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church on Hilton Head.

REFORM | From page 1

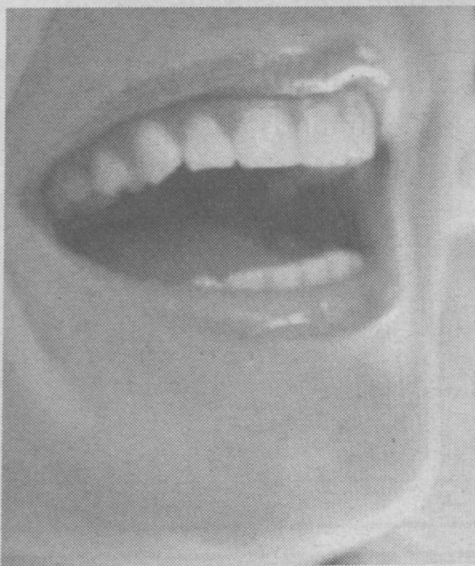
people in the Savannah area have rallied in support for what they call fair reforms. The demonstration at Forsyth Park Apr. 9 was just a small step toward recognizing what supporters consider a population of people who no longer want to live in the shadows.

One of the supporters, Melody Ortiz an advisor and recruiter of Hispanic students at AASU, is optimistic about the future reforms. It is her hope "that the city of Savannah will perceive Latinos as taxpaying citizens of the community ... that a message of peace will be sent for fair and comprehensive immigration reform and that they become an active part of our society."

In response to why immigration is such a hot topic right now, AASU student Ben Hanovich, said, "...election year is coming up and this [immigration reform] distracts Americans from the media coverage of the war."

Hanovich doesn't believe it is right to come to America to make money and then send it to Mexico. He said, "If there going to make American money spend it in America; put it back in our economy."

National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association



Spring Symposium
Tuesday May 2, 2006
10-12pm and 2-4 pm

Location TBA

All students are invited to attend.
Refreshments will be served.
This may also count toward Professional Development hours, please check with your advisor for information.

Honors Ceremony Recognizes AASU Minorities

University Relations

More than 600 ethnic minority students were honored for their academic achievements on Apr. 9 when Armstrong Atlantic State University held its annual Minority Academic Achievement Scholars (MACAS) awards ceremony.

The event was held in the Fine Arts Auditorium with Melody Ortiz as the main speaker.

Ortiz recruits Hispanic

students for the university and leads its HOLA (Hispanic Outreach & Leadership at Armstrong Atlantic) program, which offers social and academic support services to Hispanic and Latino students.

Ethnic minorities make up about 34 percent of AASU's enrollment of more than 6,700 students.

MACAS recognizes students who have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or better during

the current academic year. Awards for this event fall into three categories, depending on how high a student's grade point average is. The highest level, the Academic Excellence Award, recognizes those who have achieved a grade point average of 4.0.

For more information about the MACAS awards, call Michael Snowden, director of minority affairs, at AASU, 912-927-5271.

3 Days for AASU Reaches Goal, Draws \$210,000 Investment from Business Community

University Relations

The third annual 3 Days for AASU campaign raised more than \$210,000 in investments from the business community for Armstrong Atlantic State University.

The results were announced Fri, Apr. 7, in a victory celebration on campus at Burnett Hall. The total figure raised was \$210,468.

The campaign involved

alumni and volunteers calling on area businesses to recruit financial backing for the university's annual fund. As this year's effort wrapped up, Janice Woods, vice president of First Chatham Bank, was named outstanding volunteer of the 2006 3 Days for AASU.

The fundraising festival is only in the third year of this specialized fund-raising campaign focused on business support. Last year's campaign

met its goal by raising just over \$150,000. This year's fundraising target was \$200,000.

This year's campaign was chaired by Vernice Rackett, membership director of Savannah Quarters Country Club and co-chair of last year's successful campaign. Padgett Mixon, vice president of Wachovia Wealth Management, was co-chair of the 2006 campaign and will chair 3 Days for AASU '07.

Fashioning Hope: Tri Sigma outfits survivors of Hurricane Katrina

Jonathan Iler
Staff Writer

In the wake of the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina, there was a lot going on. There were relief efforts being organized by the Government as well as hundreds of other groups and organizations; there were fundraisers held, and people gave themselves to help out the thousands of victims that were made homeless by the hurricane.

Everywhere you looked, there was a massive outpouring of help. AASU was also in the mix, right there alongside the other schools and organizations lending a hand.

Tri Sigma was just one of many groups that participated in the benefit and they decided

to put on a fundraiser called "Golf for the Gulf," headed by Leslie Hildreth, along with the sale of black ribbons made by Jessica Christian. In all they raised \$130.

Next, the group hosted a clothing drive. When the benefit was over and the earnings were donated, people kept donating clothes to Tri Sigma. The members decided to continue the clothing drive. They began holding one every Wednesday at noon at the Shearouse Plaza until the fall semester ended. One of their biggest contributors was Salem High School's Key Club from Rockdale County. Each week the members of Tri Sigma donated the clothes to Salvation Army. In all they had over two carloads of donated clothes.

The Fight Against Cancer Continues CAC holds elections for officers

Jonathan Iler
Staff Writer

The CAC or Colleges Against Cancer, works with the American Cancer Society to help promote the ACS' biggest fundraiser: the Relay for Life. All of the money donated to that cause goes to Cancer research. They've been meeting every two or three weeks since late February and held their elections for CAC officers for the 2006/2007 school term on Apr. 13. They took a vote and the results were as follows:

President: Alex Collins
Vice President: Rebecca Robinson
Treasurer: Jack Benton

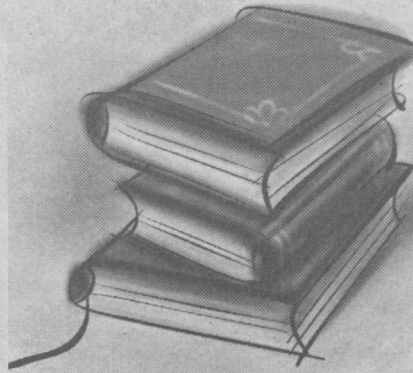
Secretary: Ashley Rollins

The new officers will help carry out the various duties of the CAC as well as appoint other members to the Chairs such as Education, Advocacy, Survivorship, and Relay for Life, each Chair having their own duties. The election of officials brings the group one step closer to an official charter.

The meeting also concerned the upcoming Relay for Life. The group still needs more participants to join their team. If you would be interested, contact Alex Collins for more info.

The group will have one last meeting before the end of the semester on Apr. 26.

You can win Text books!



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from the AASU Bookstore!

The Residential Student Association and the American Red Cross have joined forces to raise money to help our citizens' right here at home! during the month of April, you can buy raffle tickets at the Compass Point Community Office or look for our booth on campus! Remember - all funds raised stay

local to help people right here at home!

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Savannah, Ga 31415
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For more information, call John Riley at the
National Kidney Foundation of Georgia 1-800-633-2339 ext. 25

Top-Seeded AASU Men Edge Lander in 5-4 Marathon

PBC Sports Information

Sophomore Davor Zink rallied from a set down to defeat Stefan Tewes 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1 at No. 1 singles and give top-seeded AASU a 5-4 victory over second-seeded Lander University, in the championship match of the 2006 Peach Belt Conference Men's Tennis Tournament on Apr. 15.

In what was possibly the most

anticipated match of the year in the PBC (the two squads had their regular-season match rained out), the title contest did not disappoint, as the event lasted nearly five-and-a-half hours with the outcome coming down to the No. 1 singles match amid windy conditions on the Palmetto Tennis Center's Hodgkin Stadium Court.

AASU improved to 16-6 and

captured its second consecutive tournament championship. Lander, which has won 11 previous PBC tournament titles, drops to 16-2.

Zink was named the tournament's most outstanding singles player, while AASU's No. 2 doubles team of Paul Bishop and David Secker received the most outstanding doubles player award.

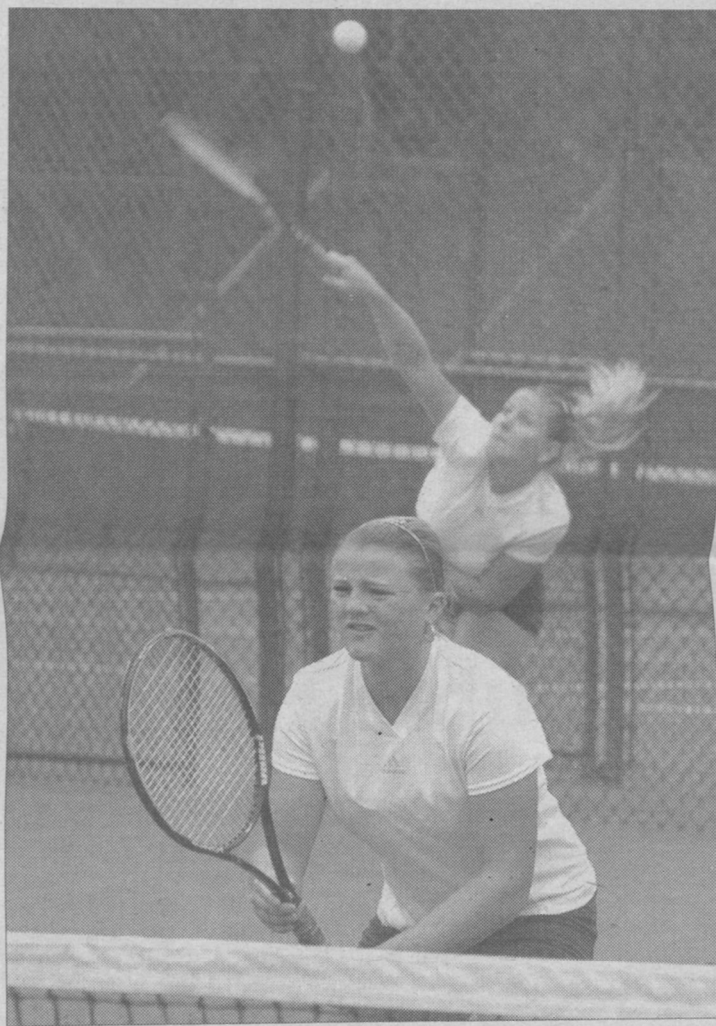
AASU Captures PBC Title

PBC Sports Information

Blanking Columbus State, the top-seeded AASU women's tennis team captured its 12th Peach Belt Conference title with a 5-0 on Apr. 15, extending its nation-best win streak to 55 matches in the process.

The Lady Pirates (25-0) did not drop a point in sweeping *th rough the tournament title*, picking up all three doubles wins against the Cougars and picking up singles wins from PBC Tournament singles MVP Iuliia Stupak and Manuela Emmrich. Stupak and teammate Luisa Cowper were named the PBC Tournament doubles MVPs as well.

AASU will now await word from the NCAA about hosting one of two South Atlantic Regionals; to take place on May 4-6. The Lady Pirates have advanced to 12 consecutive NCAA Championships with this win and AASU has seven appearances in the NCAA Championship match, including last year's NCAA DII Women's Tennis National Championship.



CHAD JACKSON | Special to the Inkwell

AASU's Iuliia Stupak is named the PBC tournament singles MVP and doubles MVP along with teammate Cowper.



ERIK O'BRIEN | The Inkwell

No. 25 AASU 9, No. 7 Columbus State 2

Columbus State Sports Information

AASU used a pair of four-run innings to jump out to a big lead on Apr. 14 and Pirate starter John Ducey kept the Cougars from rallying in a 9-2 Pirate win at Ragsdale Field. AASU moves to 29-9-1 overall and 8-8 in PBC play with the win, while Columbus State falls to 33-12 and 12-7.

AASU got its first run in the second inning as Daniel Heflin led off with a single, moved over on a sacrifice by Sean Hotzak, and scored on a Jarin Lewis single.

The Pirates would add four in the fifth inning off CSU starter Jason Good (7-2). Brad Bohannon had an RBI single and Truman Marek, Miguel Donate, and Hotzak each drove in runs with doubles to make it 5-0.

The Pirates put up another four-spot an inning later, chasing Good from the game. Pete Gundolff plated the first run with a sacrifice fly, followed by a run-scoring single from Donate. Heflin then plated two runs with another base hit off reliever Brian Kilgore to make it 9-0. Good committed

two errors in the frame, as well, with one of those leading to an unearned run. The junior went 5.1 innings and allowed 10 hits and eight runs.

CSU finally got on the board with a pair of runs in the sixth. Kurt McKee led off with a single that was booted in right field, allowing him to reach third. After a groundout and a walk to Billy Howard, Drew Candlin ripped his second double of the game to score McKee. Howard came home a batter later on a Brian Gordon sacrifice fly.

Kilgore settled in after the sixth and allowed just two hits in 3.2 innings of work. He fanned one and walked one and did not allow a run.

Ducey scattered eight hits and allowed two earned runs in 6.2 innings of work while walking two and striking out two. Vyt Rivers came on for Ducey in the seventh inning and finished up with 2.1 scoreless innings, allowing just two hits and fanning three.

Heflin led AASU's 13-hit attack with three hits and a pair of RBI. Bohannon and Donate each added a pair of hits.

Roids Raid the Major Baseball Leagues

Reese Goldman Sports Columnist

Recent allegations of steroid abuse started lingering around baseball, causing the league to thoroughly investigate players for abusing prohibited substances.

Through the process, some players have been caught doping, but none more famous than Rafael Palmeiro. Up until his failed drug test, Palmeiro was a shoe-in for a first ballot election to the hall of fame. His career statistics were more than credible for Cooperstown.

Once a mainstream figure failing baseball's new drug test was presented to the public,

baseball's commissioner Bud Selig was determined to pursue all players who have taken enhancing drugs.

With the opening of the baseball season earlier this month, Selig initiated his investigations on rumors that have been spreading through a book that claims that one of the most prolific figures in baseball, Barry Bonds, is guilty of taking steroids and other substances.

The author of the book allegedly claims that he has evidence of Bonds receiving drugs from the Balco Company. Bonds vehemently denies any charges of Balco giving him drugs. One

important statement Bonds made to the media was he did not knowingly take any steroids.

Supposedly, the investigations are to find abusers of steroids through an extensive study over previous years although the focus of the media and fans is on Bonds.

This season will be Bonds twenty-first season and most importantly reaching a milestone in baseball history. Bonds is currently six homeruns shy of tying Babe Ruth for second place with 714 career homeruns.

This mark is a feat as there are only three players throughout the history of

baseball that have 700 or more homeruns and four players with 600 or more homeruns.

The timing of the investigations is poor, as this should have started during either the off-season or the end of this season. With Bonds reaching Ruth, more people are concentrating on the steroid investigations than his on-field performance.

Whether Bonds is guilty or not should have been determined at a more opportune time so that fans could appreciate Bonds for either being arguably the greatest player of modern baseball of all time or condemn him as the biggest

cheater to tarnish the game with an irreparable scar.

New allegations accuse Bonds of lying to the grand jury in 2003. Remaining consistent throughout the investigation, Bonds made statements claiming that he has not taken performance-enhancing drugs.

ESPN reported there is strong evidence that Bonds might be guilty of perjury and could face jail time.

As a fan of the game, I have waited my whole life to see such an accomplishment come to fruition. If Bonds is guilty, there is no remedy that could heal the black-eye baseball would suffer.



ERIK O'BRIEN | The Inkwell

Deanna Beaty misses the out.

Heavy Hitter Splits Double Header

Jasmine Jones
Staff Writer

Splitting a doubleheader, the Pirates softball squad took on USC Upstate on Sun, Apr. 9 at the AASU softball field.

In game one, the Spartans broke away from a five-all tie by completing five runs in the last two innings of the game, giving them a 10-6 win over the Pirates.

Danielle Bertram led off the seventh inning with a walk, followed by a sacrifice by Deanna Beaty that resulted in an error

because second baseman Katie Adams couldn't hold on to the throw from Ashleigh Beck at first base. This play left players on first and second with zero outs and Upstate up 4-3.

Amber Hunt stepped up to the plate and knocked the first pitch hurled at her straight out of the park over the left field wall for a three run home run.

That was the fifth straight game with home runs from Hunt, who at the end of the game earned the win for the Pirates, 6-4.



ERIK O'BRIEN | The Inkwell

Valdosta State Defeats AASU in Doubleheader

Chad Jackson
Special to the Inkwell

Winning the first game, 5-2, then holding off a late rally by the Pirates to win the second game, 5-3, the Blazers used the longball in taking a non-conference college softball doubleheader from hosting Pirates at the AASU Softball Field on Apr. 11.

The Blazers (32-16) got on the board in game one quickly on a three-run home run by

designated player Ashley Mayhue in the second inning to take a 3-0 lead. Holly Willis added a two-run shot in the fifth to put Valdosta State up, 5-0.

Kristen Lindsey (14-5) gave up five hits and two runs – solo home runs to the Pirates' Ashley Bain and Jeana Short – while striking out eight in the complete-game victory.

Rachel Koenig-Eng (10-6) took the loss for AASU (32-19), giving up four hits and five runs

in seven innings while striking out five.

In game two, the Blazers again jumped on top 3-0, this time in the first inning on a Willis RBI double and a two-run home run by Caroline Cripe. The teams traded solo home runs in the fifth as Trele Edwards hit one in the top half for VSU, while Rachel Koenig-Eng delivered one for the Pirates in the bottom half.

With Valdosta State lead-

ing, 5-1, in the bottom of the seventh inning AASU rallied. Colleen Markyna led off the frame with a double, and Rachel Koenig-Eng followed with a single, putting two on with nobody out. Deanna Beaty struck out on a pitch in the dirt, but the throw by VSU catcher Becca Azsman hit Beaty in the leg, allowing Beaty to reach and scoring pinch runner Amanda Baxter.

Amber Hunt followed with

Lack of DNA Link in Duke

Gordon Coffee
Sports Columnist

Surprising results from the DNA samples taken from 46 of the 47 Duke Lacrosse team last week show no link between any of the men tested and the alleged crime.

Lawyers for the team have said that none of the players DNA was found on the woman, or any of her possessions. They claim the rape accusation is false and expect the players to be exonerated.

The whole case revolves around an incident that occurred on the night of Mar. 13. According to the police report, two women were hired as exotic dancers for a team party held at one of the player's houses. According to one woman, they were separated and one of them was raped in the bathroom of the house.

The case stirred racial tensions in the Durham community, as the alleged victim was a black woman. She claimed to be raped by three white men that also shouted racial slurs.

The defense lawyers, who received the test results on Apr. 10, asked the district attorney, Michael B. Nifong, to drop the case, but that has not occurred.

Nifong initially declined to comment on the case, but later said, "I believe a sexual assault took place," according to The News and Observer of Raleigh, N.C.

"I'm not saying it's over," Nifong told the paper, "If that's what they expect they will be sadly disappointed."

Peter J. Neufeld, an expert on DNA testing, of the nonprofit Innocence Project said that a lack of DNA evidence does not mean there was no crime.

"There have been thousands and thousands of men who have been convicted in the United States of the crime of rape without DNA and without semen," Neufeld said according to the N.Y. Times.

Friction over the case in Durham still remains, but defense lawyers said on Apr. 12 they expect at least one of the players to be indicted as early as Monday.

Despite the DNA results, the victim's family all say they still believe her and plan to stand by her.



Entertainment for the Impoverished

Erin Christian
Staff Writer

On Sat, Apr. 29, from 11a.m. - 5p.m., SCAD is hosting its annual Sidewalk Arts Festival in Forsyth Park. The festival participants represent the college's 30 areas of study and there will be first, second, and third prizes offered in each of the following competition categories: students, alumni and prospective students.

Along with the myriad of temporary masterpieces adorn-

ing the sidewalks, there will also be a student and faculty art exhibition, a SCAD student organization fair, food from local restaurants, live music and children's and youth areas for young artists. The festival is free and open to the public.

Under the oaks in Forsyth Park, hundreds of people will soon be gathering to experience art that will never see a canvas or a museum wall. The special lighting for the exhibitions will not come from strategically

placed soft inset lighting, but from the sun itself. The art will not be behind glass barriers and rope fences, but upon the ground where festival goers will crane their necks as if they were all looking for a lost contact in unison.

Yet the chalk art is not the only attraction to draw the curious, although seeing the park's sidewalks transformed into a blaze of color by those whose bodies sport the war paint from their battle with

the slate grey ground is quite curious enough. Live music will draw people from the surrounding area to Forsyth more efficiently than any Siren call, and the amusement gained from watching the young and old free spirits dance is reason enough to stay. The festival is an excellent flight of fancy to take, as we near our collective escape from Spring Semester 2006, to remind ourselves what sunlight, frivolity, beauty and youth truly mean.

Murder, Mystery and Mayhem



JACK NORTH | Special to The Inkwell

The crew of "Murder Afloat"

Antonio Burks
Staffwriter

It is a quiet night along River Street, you and few friends decide to catch a moonlight cruise on the Savannah River boat. As you board you over hear a group of people arguing. Shots ring out in the clear night air and a scream is heard. A body is found. Everyone's now a suspect. Can you find out who the murderer is before he or she strikes again?

Murder Afloat Inc. is the brainchild of writer and director Jack North. Each year North creates a believable cast of characters who board the boat. Some of the scripted scenarios include a family reunion, a group outing for therapy patients and even a movie crew on location.

The concept behind Murder Afloat, a long-playing mystery tour, is based upon the classic board game "Clue." You

have to find the clues, put together the puzzle and solve the case. The twist here is that the audience is part of the action and interacts with the cast.

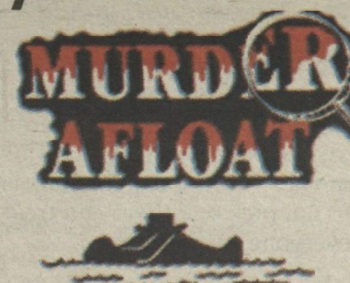
North started as a community theater actor and was inspired by a theater production he performed in Hilton Head. Because of that inspiration, he founded Murder Afloat Inc. Murder Afloat Inc. has charmed Savannah since 1990; this is their 12th production.

"We try to do it realistically," North said. "The audience knows they're attending a mystery show of course, but they don't know who the actors are ... we don't introduce them until the show is over."

This year's Murder Afloat cast is a motley crew of paranormal investigators visiting Savannah. JR Reynolds, a long time cast member and friend of North, described his character Slit. Slit is an amoral character, a seller of psychic paraphernalia through both online and via infomercials; he is not obviously trustworthy.

The cast boards the riverboat along with everyone else. They mingle with the audience; arguments may break out between cast members as the story unfolds, and then one of the cast is murdered. The captain will announce that the ship is returning to the dock so the police can investigate.

Scenes are played out in various locations on the boat, sometimes simultaneously. "If you miss a scene, which you probably will, you may decide to confer with other passengers



and compare notes. If you board with a group, I always suggest to split up so you can cover more areas," adds North.

Murder Afloat tries to find a balance between campy and reality, several past performances have been topical and set around real life events. The point of Murder Afloat is, for one night, being immersed into the role of a private investigator and to have fun.

"We point out that everyone on the boat is a suspect. People have told us that this was more fun than anything else on their vacation," North said. "This show is a lot of fun for everyone, couples, families ... even the actors!"

Savannah River Boat Cruises and Murder Afloat is hosting a AASU night on Thu, Apr. 27. For that one night all students, faculty and friends of AASU can get discount tickets and experience the magic and mystery of Murder Afloat. The ticket price is \$25 and to make reservations call (912) 232-6404. The ship begins boarding at 9:00 p.m. and leaves port at 9:30 p.m. For more information call (912) 713-1470 or Email Roguesgothics@aol.com

Live Music Rocks

Britney Compton
Staff Writer

CUB presented the southern blues group, porterdavis, Tues, April 11, in the Shearhouse plaza. "We're going to do...we're going to do a little somethin', somethin'," said Dan Barrett, lead singer and guitar player.

Their little somethin', somethin' included an array of percussion instrument from Mike Meadows. Playing combinations of Cajon, djembe, caxixi, shakers, spoons, tar, tambourine, ankle bells; combined with Simon Wallace on harmonica. Both Meadows and Wallace gave the occasional back-up vocals.

"That's as rock-n-roll as playing the spoons can be." Wallace announced after Meadows broke one during the finale of a song. John Stockel, art education major, said, "Their blend of simple southern blues guitar and harmonica is set off perfectly by the intense, creative drumming. Both laid back and enjoyable."

The trio from Austin, TX, started off in Boston as a duo playing in the subways. Their followings mainly came out of Davis Square and Porter Square subways. Meadows and Barrett continued there for a few years, then moved to Austin.

Wanting to remember their subway roots and where their sound developed, they combined the squares for porterdavis, "all lowercase."

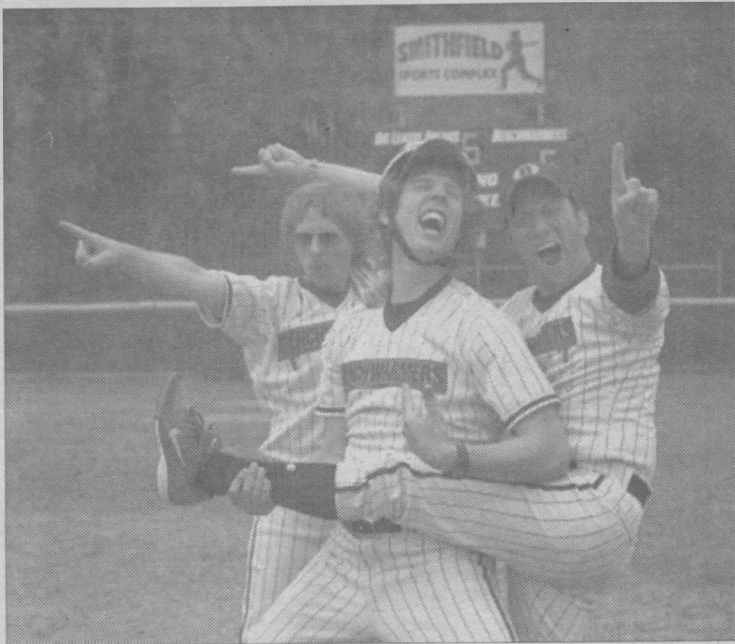
A year ago the two randomly met Wallace and his sound fit right in with theirs. Sparking the completion of porterdavis.

"The sound of the lead singer's voice was very bluesy and southern. Combine that with the others and it reminded me of the Allman Brothers. [porterdavis] is an awesome band," said Alicia Griffin, art education major.

The belief was felt from the entire audience. There were students dancing and having a good time. The final song, a sing-a-long, invited the audience to join, "give me some of it" could be heard from students and musicians alike.

The crowds of the students waiting to speak to the members at their CD booth showed support.

"One studio CD and very now and then we release studio bootlegs. We have volume one and two right now. We are going to be working on another studio CD this summer," said Meadows.



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Nerds Rule!

Tara Gergacs
Editor-in-Chief

For Gus (Rob Schneider), Richie (David Spade) and Clark (Jon Heder) being a nerd during their childhood was a normal way of living.

After growing up, the three guys decide to form a three-player baseball team to compete against little league teams. The movie takes on a "Revenge of the Nerds" feel because Gus, Richie and Clark want to get back at the guys that made their lives miserable. With the help of a fellow super nerd Mel (Jon Lovitz) and his "Star Wars" mansion, the guys make their dream a reality.

"The Benchwarmers" is a typi-

cal Happy Madison production. There will be plenty of comedy, something will go wrong and a lesson will be learned. Also, in any Adam Sandler production if Schneider or Spade are not in starring roles, there will be another "Sandler" member around. In "The Benchwarmers" Howie (Nick Swardson) is given a small role. He also starred in another Happy Madison production "Grandma's Boy."

"The Benchwarmers" is a fun loving movie worth going to see. It is original and children over 13 may want to see this movie. The moral of the story is to not pick on others and treat everyone with respect.

Scary Enough to Leave

Tara Gergacs
Editor-in-Chief

The fourth installment of the "Scary Movie" series lacks one thing: more spoofing of scary movies.

The movie is supposed to be spoofs of traditional scary movies, but it seems that the fourth installment struggles with finding more scary movies to spoof.

For a movie to spoof "War of the Worlds" and "Brokeback Mountain," does not exactly add up to horror. Now to some viewers, "Brokeback Mountain" is scary and also is "War of the Worlds," but they do not fall under the genre of horror. This problem could be because there were not enough scary movies that came out this past year.

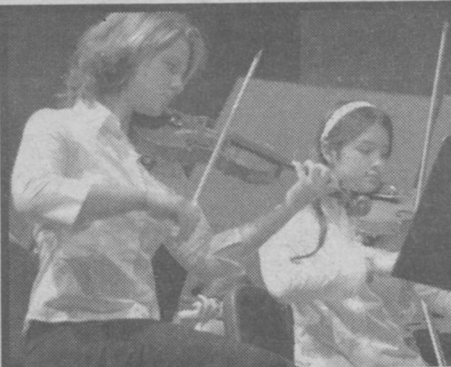
"Scary Movie" and "Scary Movie 2" spoofed the original horror classics: "Scream," "Halloween," and "The Exorcist." "Scary Movie 3" started to branch out into other genres, such as drama and action. One of the movies spoofed was "8

Mile." There were still horror movies portrayed like "The Ring," but not enough.

In "Scary Movie 4" Cindy Campbell (Anna Faris) finds herself in another mystery and hopes to solve it. This time she finds herself in strange house, which begins "The Grudge" spoof. She meets Tom Ryan (Craig Bierko), who is her next-door neighbor. They fall in love as the Tr-iPods from "War of the Worlds" approach. As the mystery continues, Cindy finds Brenda Meeks (Regina Hall) still alive after dying in "Scary Movie 3." The gang has to find a way to stop the alien Tr-iPods from destroying humanity.

The only horror movies spoofed were "The Grudge" and "Saw." Now, "The Village" could be seen as horror, but for anyone who has seen the movie it tends to have more of a theoretical meaning about society.

In the end, what makes something scary has a different meaning to all viewers.



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It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

Savannah Jazz Orchestra play Duke Ellington

Skyia Horonet
Staff writer

On Sunday, April 23 at 5 P.M. the 16 member Savannah Jazz Orchestra co-led by Teddy Adams and our very own Dr. Randall Reese of the Department of Art, Music and Theatre (AMT), will pay tribute to the legendary Duke Ellington.

Deemed the "Aristocrat of Swing," Duke Ellington's music transcends the social and cultural milieus of musical trends and offers a timeless repertoire of artistic genius. Gunther Schuller, founder of GM Recordings, Inc., compares this compositional maestro to "the pantheon of great musicians along with Bach and Beethoven and Schoenberg."

The Duke Ellington Orches-

tra was the most well-known orchestral unit in the history of jazz; honed to Ellington's artistic genius with over 3,000 sophisticated compositions including those written for his band, music for Broadway shows and ballets, jazz compositions, concert hall music and sacred music.

A pianist, bandleader, arranger and composer, Ellington and his band played together for 50 years. His orchestra attracted the best names in jazz history such as Miles Davis, Cab Calloway, Dizzy Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald.

Reese said that "Ellington's greatest gift was to develop the artistic potential of what began as dance-based popular music. He also made lasting contributions to the catalog of

great popular music and had a gift for finding creative and highly individual soloists to feature with his band. He took music that began in saloons and red light districts and turned it into a national artistic treasure."

His band not only traveled the world from the United States, Europe, India and Egypt but also entertained everyone from Queen Elizabeth II to President Nixon. Nixon's high regard for the Duke is succinctly expressed by his comment, "The wit, taste, intelligence and elegance that Duke Ellington brought to his music have made him, in the eyes of millions of people both here and abroad, America's foremost composer."

In re-creating the orchestral

vibrancy of Ellington's Orchestra, the Savannah Jazz Orchestra will be playing tunes such as Ellington's closing theme "Things Ain't What They Used to Be" (written by his son, Mercer Ellington), "Solitude," "Come Sunday" (from the first Sacred Concert and made popular by Mahalia Jackson) and "Just Squeeze Me."

Some selections will be performed in the traditional Ellington style; others will include arrangements by the Savannah Jazz Orchestra members.

Guest soloist is trombonist Fred Wesley, most widely known for being the featured trombonist with James Brown. The featured vocalist is Priscilla Albergottie Williams of Beaufort. Primary funding for the concert is provided by the

City of Savannah Cultural Affairs Bureau.

It is co-sponsored by AASU and the Coastal Jazz Association. The performance is free and open to the public. Dr. Reese shares that, "One of the joys of doing an Ellington tribute is that there are hundreds of wonderful tunes to choose from. Many have transcended their roots in the Ellington Orchestra and become part of American culture."

After the death of Duke Ellington in 1974, the great African-American singer Sarah Vaughan eulogized his life in this way, "Fans of Duke Ellington know they will never need to replace this great man - his creative spirit is still very much alive in his music."

Music, Prose, Peace and Whitman

"Spring Silenced" presented at Sentient Bean

Chris Cannon
Staff writer

A solitary lamp lit up the small stage at the Sentient Bean April 11. Muriel Maida, the brains behind the play "Spring Silenced," sat across the table from Anna Vacha, who casually but firmly held her guitar in her arms, while Gabe Romero began the theatrical reading in front of the small intimate audience.

Vacha, who wrote all of the music for "Spring Silenced," spoke in prose while plucking away at her acoustic guitar. The delightful melodies created a befitting, peaceful background to this story of the environment--past, present, and future.

Maida doesn't consider herself to be the mastermind of the play. The influences of Walt Whitman and Thomas Merton are clear throughout the play, but it goes beyond influences.

Each reader represents an

author, and although their identities are never revealed, the essence of each of their characters is apparent. Maida's main inspiration for this particular piece arose from her recent introduction to Rachel Carson who wrote "Silent Spring" in 1962.

Maida also had James Herd Jr. and Dr. Linda Bannister grace the Sentient Bean with their presence. Residents of Los Angeles, Herd and Bannister are both actors in the play "Turpentine Jack," the story of enslaved blacks, immigrants, and convicts during the 1900-1960's who were forced financially to work in turpentine farms.

Miles from the nearest city, the mills would have commissaries that inflated prices two or three times the normal price. This would force workers in debt to their bosses, who were already paying them next to nothing.

Jake and Cy, characters in the

play, were attempting to overcome this struggle of working and being enslaved by debt. Of the three plays that Herd has written, it is obvious that he primarily tackles sensitive issues of racism, discrimination, and power struggle. As Herd put it, we need to "open people's eyes."

Maida has been working in the field of acting and writing since 1960 and joined the Actors Equity Association in 1961 and later the Screen Actors Guild. She has worked over 200 jobs because she "always says yes."

Currently working on a grant for Theater Workshop for Children at an unnamed school in Savannah, Maida stays active in the community. When asked how she manages to keep up with all that she does, Maida says "You just have to love what you do and have a passion for it."

Two Earnests', a Witty Plot and a Whole Lot of Bunburying!

Masquers present "The Importance of Being Earnest"

Lindsey Estep
Staff Writer

The Masquers are working hard to deliver the play, "The Importance of Being Earnest." The play, written by Oscar Wilde in 1895, parodies the English upper-class, centering its wit on the two main characters Algernon Moncrieff, and John Worthing or Jack.

Both of these characters engage in deception, pretending their names are Earnest to court the women they desire to marry, Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. According to Jack's object of affection, Gwendolen Fairfax, "there is something in that name that inspires absolute confidence ... it is a divine name, it has a music of its own".

Throughout the play Al-

gernon and Jack are guilty of bunburying, a clever label for deception coined by Oscar Wilde. Jordan Gray, playing Algernon, said the play is "a parody on theatre itself and every line is pure sarcasm".

According to Gray, Oscar Wilde was challenged to write a play that encompassed every cliché in theater, and he did so in just two days. The result was a deceptively flippant play that still draws crowds: part satire, part comedy of manners and always worth watching.

The play opens Thu. Apr. 20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Apr. 20 - 22 and Apr. 27 - 29 in Armstrong's Jenkins Theater. There is a Sunday matinee on Apr. 23 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are free for Armstrong Students, and general admission is \$8.

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How Did This Get on my Finger

Karen White
Copy Editor

Diamonds are forever. Diamonds are a girl's best friend. Say it with a diamond.

These catch phrases are imbedded in our culture through advertising, music and news media. What do you give your fiancé for an engagement ring? A diamond, of course. When women turn 16, traditionally they receive diamond chip earrings or a diamond necklace. Anniversary rings are typically a band of diamonds.

However, few of us really know how we get these precious stones on our bodies. Diamond mining in Africa is a little discussed phenomena of capitalism – the hidden methods of diamond production are as treacherous as the harvesting of coffee and cocoa beans or the manufacture of clothing and materials in underdeveloped countries (i.e. sweatshops).

According to www.american.edu, "diamonds and ... their mining and export contribute to the internal conflict in the DROC [Democratic Republic of the

Congo]. It must be mentioned that because the DROC does not have the capability of cutting and finishing the rough diamonds that are extracted from its territory, most exporting activities are handled by third parties, usually diamond exporting firms from Western countries. In addition, it can be argued that because of historical colonialism experienced by the DROC, as with most of Africa, this economic arrangement is an expression, if not an extension of this historical misfortune." In short, even if Western countries do not outright control the Congo, they subversively control the region through the economy.

The DROC has had a 36 year-long civil war that is currently financed by diamond exportation. Again, according to www.american.edu, "Most of the diamond mining in the DROC takes place in the eastern part of the country, which at the present time is controlled by the rebel factions, who enjoy support from Uganda and Rwanda. The horrifying effects of this situation are the forced displacement of the Congolese

people living in the mining areas, as well as the myriad of human rights abuses being committed."

After 9/11, our government produced a series of public service announcements concerning the funding of "terrorists" through the sale of illegal drugs. However, not once have we seen a PSA showing the effects of the diamond wars – a pair of earrings doesn't equal a gun in the hands of warring factions in our eyes because we gain so much economically from the importing the raw diamonds.

Furthermore, the miners themselves are subject to horrifying living and working conditions. In her research on diamond mining in South Africa, focusing on De Beers, Jani Roberts detailed examples of ongoing apartheid and the potential for death involved with diamond mining: "Near the diamond waste reprocessing plant in the township

I came across the blacks' vast grave yard. Many graves were marked with heaps of rough rocks. Many were freshly dug. Sometimes the rocks supported the marks of affection of the extremely poor: a cracked jug, an old teapot, broken cups. From the graves' size, many were of children. Some had black tombstones. Others had the name of the dead sprawled on a piece of metal. Many had no name. The wall around the graveyard was cheaply erected of rough rocks without municipal help. Not far away, on the city side of the blacks' township, was the large white graveyard. Its graves were spaced in wide lawns. The fence around it was high and robust. Thus apartheid affects even the dead."

Admittedly, my mother gave me the required diamond neck-

lace for my sixteenth birthday. Admittedly, I pawned it when I needed some cash for books. It is hard to say no to a beautifully set diamond, especially in the context of everlasting love, just as I have a hard time saying no to a fresh cup of coffee, regardless of its origins. But, I'm learning.

I think the most important aspect of our materialistic goals as Americans is to become more aware of how we get our goods. A magic fairy doesn't deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to the grocery stores; meats aren't grown pre-packaged. Our diamonds are tinged with blood, and our coffee and chocolate bars taste like the sweat of small children. Awareness is the first step toward change.

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Editor in Chief
Tara Gergacs

Copy Editor
Karen White
A & E Editor
Emilie Tuminella

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Chris Nowicki

Layout Editor
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Sports Editor
Mary Culp

Adviser
Tony Morris

Co-Adviser
Leigh Rich

Printer
Judd Publishing
Macon, GA

11935 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31419
(912) 927-5351
Fax: (912) 921-5901
inkwell@mail.armstrong.edu

Faculty & Staff Contributors

Sports: Chad Jackson
A&E: Mario Incorvaia

Student Activities

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The Youth and Beauty Brigade: On Top 8

Kevin Daiss
Humor Columnist

I've spoken of the phenomena from hell known as Myspace in this column before.

But just when you think that Myspace has ruined enough lives they come up with some new way to debase everything you once loved and held dear.

Now, there is the "Myspace Top 8." If you're unfamiliar with this concept, then God bless you because hot diggity damn it's a doozy. If you're unfamiliar with doozies I suggest you watch more Cary Grant films. Briefly: The concept of Top 8 forces Myspace users (basically everyone in the world) to rank their eight closest friends, family members and authors of politically incorrect cartoons.

You can think of it as akin to ranking your love for your children. If you have siblings you know that parents regularly do this kind of thing. The big difference is that parents try to hide it, whereas Myspace is flaunting it. Who do you love the most? Well, let me just click to see.

Can no one see how this is ruining lives?! Now, say you're incredibly popular—God knows

I sure am—and have around 600 friends. You have to pick eight, and only eight, to be represented on the main page of your Myspace. These are your best friends, from now on. If anyone is left off the top 8 they might react wildly. I know one friend of mine (and I'm not in her top eight, that bitch) that left off someone that is not only psychotic, but also delusional. They attempted to stab my friend on the corner of Abercorn and Liberty. I am not joking. I know of other stories similar to this resulting from people not being included in the various top 8's of their friends.

This also works the other way around. Say you really don't have eight close friends. Not only are you probably a gigantic waste of space, but really, does anyone want "Tom" on their top 8 in an unironic way? Hell no, son, grow some balls, eat some beans, and at least fill it up with semi-attractive 14 year old girls you barely know (oh, and make sure they really dig Coheed and Cambria/Matchbook Romance/Thursday/Fall Out Boy/Every other band that

sounds exactly the same).

The real issue at stake with the top 8 is that it is supposed to be a fun way to rank whom you love the most. Since when was it fun to rank whom you loved the most, though? Everyone overanalyzes everyone else's top 8. People pour so much energy into what it means when someone is number 1 instead of number 3 and why the hell is their dog number 6 and their brother number 7 and all of that crap that never really mattered.

For example ...
"Did you see Marsha's top 8? Jeff is number 1 now. I bet she's pregnant with his child."

I urge you, Myspace users, to screw this top 8 thing up completely. Put random people in there. Take a page from my playbook and make 8 Myspaces for yourself and be the world's biggest narcissist. But above all else, seriously, don't get stabbed by some psychotic person a bad haircut/attitude because you met him/her once in Gamble Hall and he/she thought you were hot and you thought he/she would loan you a dollar for a Coke.

Express your opinion with a letter to the Editor

inkwell@mail.armstrong.edu

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Services

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